THE NUPTIALS: A MASQUE,

On the Marriage of his GRACE

JAMES

Duke of *HAMILTON*,

AND

Lady *ANNE COCHRAN*.

By ALLAN RAMSAY.

To which is prefix'd, An

INTRODUCTION *concerning* MASQUES.

Hail wedded Love! Myſterious Law! True Source
Of humane Offspring, ſole Propriety
In Paradice, of all Things common elſe;
Here Love his golden Shafts employs, here lights
His conſtant Lamp, and waves his purple Wings.

MILTON.

LONDON:
Printed for J. PEMBERTON, at the *Buck* and *Sun*, in *Fleet-ſtreet*. MDCCXXIII. [Price 6 *d.*]

THE NUPTIALS:

The PERSONS.

CALLIOPE.

GENIUS *Of the Houſe of* Hamilton.

VENUS.

HYMEN.

MINERVA.

The GRACES.

BACCHUS.

GANYMEDE.

INTRODUCTION
ON
MASQUES.

THE *preſent Poem being a Revival of a good old Form of Poetry, in high Repute with us, it may not be amiſs to ſay ſomething of a Diverſion once ſo agreeable, and ſo long interrupted, or diſuſed. The Original of* Maſques *ſeems to be an Imitation of the* Interludes *of the Ancients, preſented on Occaſion of ſome Ceremony performed in a great and noble Family. The Actors in this Kind of* Half-Dramatic *Poetry have formerly been even* Kings, Princes, *and the firſt Perſonages of the Kingdom; and in private Families the nobleſt and neareſt Branches. The* Machinery *was of the greateſt Magnificence; very ſhewy, coſtly, and not uncommonly contrived by the ableſt* Architects, *as well as the beſt* Poets. *Thus we ſee in* Ben. Johnſon *the*

Name

Name of Inigo Jones, *and the ſame in* Carew; *whether as the Modeller only, or as Poet in Conjunction with them, ſeems to be doubtful, there being nothing of our* Engliſh Vitruvius *left (that I know of) that places him in the Claſs of Writers. Theſe Shews we trace backwards as far as* Henry *the Eighth, from thence to Queen* Elizabeth, *and her Succeſſor King* James, *who was both a great Encourager and Admirer of them. The laſt Maſque, and the beſt ever written, was that of* Milton, *preſented at* Ludlow Caſtle, *in the Praiſe of which no Words can be too many: And I remember to have heard the late excellent Mr.* Addiſon *agree with me in that Opinion.* Coronations, Princely Nuptials, Public Feaſts, *the* Entertainment *of* foreign Quality, *were the uſual Occaſions of this Performance, and the beſt Poet of the Age was courted to be the Author. Mr.* Ramſay *has made a noble and ſucceſsful Attempt to revive this Kind of Poeſy, on a late celebrated Account. And tho' he is often to be admired in all his Writings, yet, I think, never more than in his preſent Compoſition. A particular Friend was commiſſion'd to give it a Second Edition in* England, which, *I fancy, the Public will agree that it deſerved.*

THE

A

MASQUE,

Perform'd *February* 14, 1723.

Descende Cœlo, & dic age tibia,
Regina longum Calliope melos,

HOR.

Calliope playing on a *Violentello* sings.

JOY to the Bridegroom, Prince of *Clyde*,
Lang may his Bliss and Greatness blossom;
Joy to his virtuous charming Bride,
Who gains this Day his Grace's Bosom.

II.

Appear great Genius of his Line,
And bear a Part in the Rejoycing,
Behold your Ward by Powers Divine,
Join'd with a Mate of their ain (*a*) chooſing.

III.

Forſake a while the *Cyprian* Scene,
Fair Queen of Smiles and ſaft Embraces,
And hither come with all your Train
Of Beauties, Loves, and Sports, and Graces.

IV.

Come, *Hymen*, bleſs their Nuptial Vow,
And them with mutual Joys inſpire,
Deſcend *Minerva*, for 'tis you,
With Virtue beets (*b*) the haly Fire.

(*a*) *Own.* (*b*) *Fans.*

At the Close of this Song, enters the *Genius* of the Family, clad in a Scarlet Robe, with a Duke's Coronet on his Head, a Shield on his left Arm, with the proper Bearing of *Hamilton.*

GENIUS.

FAIR Mistress of harmonious Sounds, we hear
Thy Invitation grateful' to the Ear;
Of all the *Gods* who from the *Olympian* Height,
Bow down their Heads, and in thy Notes delight,
Jove keeps this Day in his Imperial Dome,
And I to lead th' invited *Guests* am come.

Enter *Venus*, attended by three *Graces*, with *Minerva* and *Hymen*, all in their proper Dresses.

CALLIOPE.

WELCOME ye bright *Divinities* that guard
The Brave and Fair, and faithful Love reward.
All hail immortal Progeny of *Jove*,
Who plant, preserve, and prosper sacred Love.

GENIUS.

GENIUS.

Be ſtill auſpicious to th' united Pair,
And let their pureſt Pleaſures be your Care,
Your Stores of genial Bleſſings here employ,
To crown th' *illuſtrious Youth* and *Fair-anes* (*a*) Joy.

VENUS.

I'll breathe eternal Sweets in ev'ry Air,
He ſhall look always Great, She ever Fair,
Kind Rays ſhall mix the Sparkles of his Eye,
Round her the Loves in ſmiling Crowds ſhall fly,
And bear frae ilka (*b*) Glance on douny Wings,
Into his raviſht Heart the ſafteſt Things:
And ſoon as *Hymen* has perform'd his Rites,
I'll ſhow'r on them my hale (*c*) *Idalian* Sweets,

(*a*) *One's.* (*b*) *From ev'ry.* (*c*) *Whole.*

They

They ſhall poſſeſs
In each Careſs,
Delights ſhall tire
The Muſes Sire,
In higheſt Numbers to expreſs.

HYMEN:

I'LL buſk (*a*) their Bow'r, and lay them gently down,
Syne ilka langing (*b*) Wiſh with Raptures crown;
The gloomy Night ſhall ne'er unwelcome prove,
That leads them to the ſilent Scenes of Love:
The Sun at Morn ſhall dart his kindeſt Rays,
To chear and animate each dear Embrace,
Fond of the FAIR, he falds (*c*) her in his Arms,
She bluſhes ſecret, conſcious of her Charms.

(*a*) *Deck.* (*b*) *Then ev'ry longing.* (*c*) *Folds.*

Rejoice,

Rejoice, brave YOUTH,
In ſic a Fouth (*a*)
Of Joys the Gods for thee provide;
The Roſy Dawn,
The Flow'ry Lawn,
That Spring has dreſs'd in a' (*b*) its Pride,
Claim nae (*c*) Regard
When they're compar'd
With blooming Beauties of thy BRIDE.

MINERVA.

FAIREST of a' (*d*) the Goddeſſes, and thou
That links the Lovers to be ever true,
The Gods and Mortals awn (*e*) your mighty Power,
But 'tis not you can make their Sweets ſecure:

(*a*) *Such a Store.* (*b*) *All.* (*c*) *No.* (*d*) *All.* (*e*) *Own.*

That

That be my Task, to make a Friendſhip riſe,
Shall raiſe their Loves aboon (*a*) the vulgar Size.
Thoſe near related to the brutal Kind,
Ken (*b*) naithing of the Wedlock of the Mind;
'Tis I can make a Life a hinny (*c*) Moon,
And mould a Love ſhall laſt like that aboon (*d*).
A' (*e*) theſe ſma (*f*) Springs whence cauld Reſerve [and Spleen,
Take their firſt Riſe, and favour'd flow mair (*g*) keen,
I ſhall diſcover in a proper View,
To keep their Joys unmix'd and ever new.
Nor Jealouſy nor envious Mouth
Shall dare to blaſt their Love,
But Wiſdom, Conſtancy and Truth
Shall ev'ry Bliſs improve.

(*a*) *Above.* (*b*) *Know.* (*c*) *Honey.* (*d*) *Above.*
(*e*) *All.* (*f*) *Small.* (*g*) *More.*

GENIUS.

THRICE happy Chief, fae (*a*) much the Care
Of a' (*b*) the Family of *Jove*,
A Thousand Blessings wait the Fair,
Who is found worthy of his Love.
Lang may the fair Attractions of her Mind
Make Her still lovelier, Him for ever kind.

MINERVA.

THE Ancestors of mightiest Chiefs and Kings
Nae higher can derive than humane Springs,
Yet frae (*c*) the common Soil each wond'rous Root
Aloft to Heaven their spreading Branches shoot;
Bauld (*d*) in my Aid, these triumph'd over Fate,
Fam'd for unbounded Thought or stern Debate,

(*a*) *So.* (*b*) *All.* (*c*) *From.* (*d*) *Bold.*

Born

Born high upon an undertaking Mind,
Superiour raiſe, and left the Croud behind.

GENIUS.

FRAE (*a*) theſe deſcending laurel'd with Renown,
My *Charge* throu' Ages draws his Linage down:
The Paths of ſic *Forbeers* (*b*) lang may He trace,
And She be *Mother* to as fam'd a Race.

WHEN blew Diſeaſes fill the drumly (*c*) Air,
And red het Bowts (*d*) throu' Flaughts of Lightning rair,
Or madning Faction ſhakes the ſanguine Sword,
With watchfu' Eye I'll tent (*e*) my darling Lord,
And his lov'd Mate —— Tho' Furies ſhou'd break looſe,
Awake or Sleeping ſhall enjoy Repoſe.

(*a*) *From.* (*b*) *Such Forefathers.* (*c*) *Troubled.*
(*d*) *Hot Bolts.* (*e*) *Watch.*

I. GRACE.

WHILE Gods keep Haly-day, and Mortals ſmile,
Let Nature with Delights adorn the Iſle;
Be huſh, bauld North, *Favonius* only blaw (*a*),
And ceaſe bleak Clouds to ſhed or Weet or Snaw;
Shine bright, thou radiant Ruler of the Year,
And gar (*b*) the Spring with earlier Pride appear.

II. GRACE.

THY Month, great Queen of Goddeſſes, make
Which gains new Honours frae this Marriage Day. [gay,
On *Glotta*'s Banks ye healthfu' Hynds reſort,
And with the landart (*c*) Laſſes blythly ſport.

(*a*) *Blow.* (*b*) *Make.* (*c*) *Rural.*

III. *GRACE.*

WEAR your beſt Faces and your *Sunday*'s Weeds,
And rouſe the Dance with your maiſt *(a)* tuneful' [Reeds;
Let tuneful' Voices join the rural Sound,
And wake reſponſive Echo all around.

I. *GRACE.*

SING your great Maſter, *Scotia*'s eldeſt Son,
And the lov'd Angel that his Heart has won;
Come, Siſters, let's frae Arts hale Stores collect
Whatever can her native Beauties deck,
That in the Day ſhe may eclipſe the Light,
And ding *(b)* the Conſtellations of the Night.

(a) Moſt. *(b) Outdo.*

VENUS.

Cease, busſy Maids, your artfu' Buskings raiſe
But little Aid to *Anna*'s genuine Rays;
Tho ilka (*a*) Plain and ilka (*a*) Sea combine
To make her with their richeſt Product ſhine,
Her Lip, her Boſom, and her ſparkling Een (*b*),
Excell the Ruby, Pearl, and Diamond ſheen (*c*);
Theſe leſſer Ornaments, illuſtrious Bride,
As Bars to ſafter Bleſſings, fling aſide;
Steal frae them ſweetly to your Nuptial Bed,
As frae its Body ſlides the ſainted Shade,
Frae loath'd Reſtraint to Liberty above,
Where all is Harmony, and all is Love;
Haſte to theſe Bleſſings,—— kiſs the Night away,
And make it ten Times pleaſanter than Day.

(*a*) *Ev'ry.* (*b*) *Eyes.* (*c*) *Bright.*

HYMEN.

HYMEN.

THE Whiſper and Careſs ſhall ſhorten Hours,
While kindly as the Beams on dewy Flowers,
Thy *Sun*, like him who the freſh Bevrage ſips,
Shall feaſt upon the Sweetneſs of thy Lips:
My haly (*a*) Hand maun (*b*) chaſtly now unlooſe
That *Zone* which a' thy Virgin Charms encloſe:
That *Zone* ſhou'd be leſs grateſu' to the Fair
Than eaſy Bands of ſafter Wedlock are.
That lang unbuckled grows a hateſu' Thing,
The langer *Theſe* are bound, they mair of Honour bring.

MINERVA.

YES, happy Pair, what e'er the Gods inſpire
Purſue, and gratify each juſt Deſire;

(*a*) *Holy.* (*b*) *Muſt.*

Enjoy

Enjoy your Paſſions, with full Tranſports mixt,
But ſtill obſerve the Bounds by Vertue fixt.

Enter *BACCHUS.*

WHAT brings *Minerva* here this rantin (*a*) Night;
She's good for naithing but to preach or fight:
Is this a Time for either!—— Swith (*b*) away,
Or learn like us to be a Thought mair gay.

MINERVA.

PEACE, *Theban Roarer*, while the milder Powers
Give Entertainment, there's nae need of yours;
The pure Reflection of our calmer Joys
Has mair of Heaven than a' thy flaſhy Noiſe.

(*a*) *Jovial.* (*b*) *Ha*[illegible]

BACCHUS.

Ye canna (*a*) want it Faith! You that appear
Anes (*b*) at a Bridal (*c*) but in twenty Year;
A Ferly (*d*) 'tis your Dortiſhip (*e*) to ſee;
But where was e'er a Wedding without me?
Blew Eeen (*f*) remember I'm baith Hap (*g*) and
To *Venus* there, but me ſhe'd ſtarve o' Caul (*i*). [Saul (*h*)

VENUS.

We awn the Truth,— *Minerva* ceaſe to check
Our jolly Brother with your Diſreſpect;
He's never abſent at the Treats of *Jove*,
And ſhou'd be preſent at this Feaſt of Love.

(*a*) *Cannot.* (*b*) *Once.* (*c*) *Marriage.* (*d*) *Wonder.*
(*e*) *Nicety.* (*f*) *Eyes.* (*g*) *Warmth.* (*h*) *Soul.*
(*i*) *With Cold.*

GENIUS.

MAIST (*a*) welcome Power, that chears the vital Streams,
When *Pallas* guards thee frae thy wild Extremes;
Thy roſy Viſage at theſe ſolemn Rites,
My generous Charge with open Smiling greets.

BACCHUS.

I'M nae great Dab at Speeches, that maun clink (*b*)
But there's my Paw I ſhall fou (*c*) tightly drink
A hearty Health to thir ſame lovely *Twa*,
That are ſae meikle dauted by you a';
Then with my Juice a reeming Bicquor (*d*) crown,
I'll gi'e (*e*) the Toaſt, and ſee it fairly round.

(*a*) *Moſt.* (*b*) *Muſt rhime.* (*c*) *Full.* (*d*) *Full Goblet.* (*e*) *Give.*

Enter *Ganymede*, with a Flaggon in one Hand and a Glaſs in the other,—— ſpeaks,

To you blyth Beings, the benign Director
Of Gods and Men— to keep your Sauls in tift (*a*),
Has ſent you here a Preſent of his Nectar,
As good as e'er was browen aboon the Lift (*b*).

BACCHUS.

Ha *Gany!* Come, my dainty Boy,
Skink't up and let us prive (*c*),
Without it Life wad (*d*) be a Toy,
Here, gi'e me't in my Nive (*e*).
[Takes the Glaſs.] Good Health to *Hamilton* and his
Lov'd Mate,— O Father *Jove* we [crave,

(*a*) *Up your Spirits.* (*b*) *Brew'd above the Skies.*
(*c*) *Taſte.* (*d*) *Would.* (*e*) *Give it me in my Hand.*

Thoul't grant them a lang Tack of [Bliſs,
And Rowth (*a*) of bonny Bairns [and brave.
Pour on them frae thy endleſs Store,
A' Benniſons (*b*) that are divine,
With as good Will as I waught [o'er (*c*)
This flowing Glaſs of heavenly [Wine.

[Drinks, and cauſes all the Company to drink round.]

COME ſee't about, and ſyne (*d*) let's all advance,
Mortals and Gods be Pairs, and tak a Dance ;
Minerva mim (*e*) for a' your Morals ſtoor (*f*),
Ye ſhall with Billy *Bacchus* fit (*g*) the Floor :
Play up there, Laſſie, ſome blyth *Scottiſh* Tune,
Syne a' (*h*) be blyth, when Wine and Wit gae round.

(*a*) *Store.* (*b*) *All Bleſſings.* (*c*) *Drink off.* (*d*) *Then.* (*e*) *Huſh.* (*f*) *Reſervedneſs.* (*g*) *Foot.* (*h*) *And all.*

The Health about, Muſick and Dancing begin.

The Dancing over, before her Grace retires with the Ladies to be undreſs'd, *Calliope* ſings the

II.

EPITHALAMIUM.

I.

BRIGHT is the Low (*a*) of lawfu' Love,
Which ſhining Sauls impart,
It to Perfection mounts above,
And glows about the Heart.
It is the Flame gives laſting Worth,
To Greatneſs, Beauty, Wealth and Birth,
On you illuſtrious youthfu' Pair,
Who are high Heavens Delight and Care;
The bliſsfu' Beam darts warm and fair,
And ſhall improve the reſt

(*a*) *Flame.*

III.

Of

Of a' theſe Gifts baith great and rare;
Of which ye are poſſeſt.

II.

Bacchus, bear off your dinſome (*a*) Gang,
Hark, frae yon Hoams (*b*) the rural Thrang
Invite you now away,
While ilka Hynd,
And Maiden kind,
Dance in a Ring,
While Shepherds ſing
In Honour of the Day;
Gae (*c*) drink and dance
Till Morn advance,
And ſet the twinkling Fires,
While we prepare
To lead the FAIR

And BRAVE to their Deſires.

(*a*) *Noiſy.* (*b*) *Homes.* (*c*) *Go.*

III.

III.

Gae, Loves and Graces, take your Place,
Around the Nuptial Bed abide;
Fair *Venus* highten each Embrace,
And ſmoothly make their Minutes ſlide.
Gae, *Hymen*, put the Couch in Caſe,
Minerva thither lead the Bride,
Neiſt (*a*) all attend his youthfu' Grace,
And lay him ſweetly by her Side.

IV.

Haſte, happy Man, and happier be,
Enjoy the Maid profuſe of Charms,
Now by the Powers Divine made free,
Take a' the Joys reſerv'd for thee,
Reſerv'd for thee in ANNA's Arms.

(*a*) *Next.*

FINIS.

III.

Ge, Loves and Graces, take your Place,
Around the Nuptial Bed abide;
Fair Fews brighten each Embrace,
And smoothly make their Minutes slide.
Ge, Hymen, put the Couch in Cafe,
Minerva thither lead the Bride,
Neiff (a) all attend his youthful Grace,
And lay him sweetly by her Side.

IV.

Hafe, happy Man, and happier be,
Enjoy the Maid profuse of Charms,
Now by the Powers Divine made free,
Take a' the Joys reserv'd for thee,
Reserv'd for thee in ANNA's Arms.

(a) Neve.